

# STIRRING WAR EXPERIENCES OF AN OLD-TIME OPERATOR

"Depot" Smith, Now of Macon, Mo., Recalls Days When Telegraphing Was an Exciting Occupation—Delivered Fake Message From Lincoln to an Obstreperous Confederate—Handled Important Messages That Passed Between Grant and Sherman Just Before the March to the Sea.

WIRE TAPPERS CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF FUN AND WORRY.



"DEPOT" SMITH.

REPUBLICAN SPECIAL.  
Macon, Mo., May 20.—Fifty years ago "Depot" Smith of this city took charge of a key in the office of the National Telegraph Company at Columbus, O. This was just eleven years after Samuel P. H. Morse transmitted the first telegraphic message from Washington to Baltimore. "Depot" Smith was then a lad of 20. Smith's baptismal name was Thomas. When he came here in 1861 and took charge of the railroad telegraph there were two other Tom Smiths in town and, in order to avoid confusion in the South colony, they called the last arrival after the location of the place of business. There isn't a half dozen people in town who know him by any other name, though he has been out of the depot nearly seventeen years.

The National Telegraph Company handled the press and commercial dispatches at Columbus. Its wires were strung along the highway. Its then competitor, the Western Union, followed the railroads. Then the National was the stronger of the two systems. "Depot" Smith was transferred to Albany, N.Y., opposite Pittsburgh, in 1862. What happened after that did more to gray his hair than the years.

The country was beginning to boil, said the veteran operator, when I received my new assignment. Across the river, in Pittsburgh, there lay on two flat cars what

was said to be the largest cannon in the United States. The authorities had given orders for its transportation to some fort in Georgia. The people learned of it and a tremendous crowd gathered around the train and forbade the engineer to take it away. Men shouted the cannon and vowed they would kill anybody who attempted to move it. It didn't go.

"Depot" Smith was called vehemently for field operators. I enrolled and they sent me to Beardstown, Ky., where there was a Union hospital and army post. At first General Booby's army made things considerably safe for us but when it withdrew we were at the mercy of the guerrillas. There were only a few soldiers at the post, but the government tried to maintain a telegraph office there for the benefit of the hospital and for the occasional use of couriers from the various bodies of troops.

"I didn't have any arms, because it wouldn't have done any good. The guerrillas came in whenever it suited them, smashed the telegraph and cut the wires. My almost daily diversion was dodging them. One day a tall, dark-faced, whiskered renegade slipped in and, drawing a gun, said:

"I've run through to Washington, young fellow."

"Yes sir, I said politely.

"I'm home, come paper."

"MESSAGE TO LINCOLN."

"I handed him a pad, and he scratched out this:

"Aberhame Linkum washing town go to hell anounce Red the Rebel."

"I took the message and began click-

ing the sounder. My picturesque patron got a chair and leaned in it against the wall. I judged from his spelling that he wouldn't know whether I was telegraphing or only making a noise. His note struck me as a bit humorous and, in spite of his warlike appearance, I was seized with an impulse I could not resist. So, after a due wait for the "anure," I started the instrument going again, and wrote out this, which I handed to the sender:

"The Rebel, Beardstown, Kentucky: will visit you as per suggestion. Wire street No."

"ABERHAME LINKUM."

"Red the Rebel held up the message in his left hand, while he cocked his revolver with the right. I began to ease over to the window. But I wasn't in danger. He read the thing and pinned it to the wall with a disk, after which he stood off and shot six holes through it. "That's what I think of your Uncle Aberhame," he said, "and you can tell him so as quick as you darn please."

It seemed to relieve his feelings, and I'm certain it relieved mine to see him shuffle out without using me for a target.

One night, during a period when the enemy was getting pretty numerous, I was awakened by an emergency call. I hastily ran downstairs to the telegraphing key.

"Beardstown! Beardstown! Beardstown! howled the instrument.

"All right, get on your feet, fired back. "Hurry for Jefferson Davis and the Southern Confederacy. We've got ten men. We got sent. Put out the hand."

"At first I supposed the man up at Nashville or somewhere, but I afterwards learned that the irrepressible Johnnies had cut into our line and were now in the Federal operators over a Confederate victory somewhere in the East."

"THEIR VICTORY TAPPERS."

"Then I could hear our men's voices back at that Rebel outpost until the very poles shook under the awful load of vituperation. He held on to the connection for several weeks before we could find where they had tapped us, and, of course, the wires were useless for telegraphic use while he was next. During the dull intervals I would call him up and we grew to be quite friendly. He told me he was getting \$20 a month from the Confederacy, and said I would get as much if I would enter the service.

"All direct orders to commanders and their copies were sent in cipher, as a matter of course, yet it was hazardous to let an enemy have even the cipher; an ingenious man might unravel it.

"It frequently happened that a Government operator was intrusted with most important information, the failure of which might bring disaster to military plans. I have never known of a man in the service committing such a blunder.

"One of the most memorable dispatches I recall that came into our office was the final surrender of the war. I had been removed from Beardstown to Louisville and was on duty at night. So many isolated operators had been killed in Kentucky that the Government abolished Beardstown and other offices of like character.

"The people were generally aware that some important move by the two leading generals of the Union was in contemplation, but had no idea their plans had been perfected. Sherman's course was dictated by the cutting loose from his base of supplies and living off the country through which his army passed. Strange as it may seem to-day, it seems there was violent opposition in some quarters at Washington.

SHERMAN TO GRANT.

"At 2 o'clock one morning the operator at Washington called me and repeated this confidential message from Sherman to Grant:

"Go on with our plans as we have arranged them. Don't mind the fellows at Washington."

The general may or may not have used the expedient, but certain it is the chief operator delivered the message that way to the men at the other end of the wire. The significance of the words "the fellows at Washington" was under way, and the General's grant had been the last act in the war tragedy around Richmond.

"It meant that Richmond would be the people of Louisville and every other city of the nation, for that matter, have had that little message been posted in the bulletin board. Good and other syndicates would have gladly paid thousands of dollars for the information. I was safe in the breast of a key-puncher. I dare say many a key-puncher felt strong temptation to import the momentous news, but had he done so he would certainly have found himself in front of a court-martial, for he might have dis-

ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW AT  
**LAMMERT'S**  
The House That Carries the  
LARGEST AND BEST STOCK.

CLEARING SALE OF  
**PARLOR, MUSIC AND CUPID  
CABINETS**  
(North Show Window.)

We have too many in stock. SEE THESE PRICES:  
MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET: \$24.00 value—We will sell for.....\$7.50  
MAHOGANY CUPID CABINET: \$18.00 value—We will sell for.....\$10.00  
MAHOGANY AND GLASS PARLOR CABINET: \$22.00 value—We will sell for.....\$16.50  
MAHOGANY MUSIC CABINET: \$22.00 value—We will sell for.....\$17.00  
MAHOGANY PARLOR CABINET: \$18.00 value—We will sell for.....\$7.50

**Craftsman Furniture**  
"Look for the Mark." Made Only by



The highest qualities and the most beautiful examples of the Craftsman's art ever produced. Sold in St. Louis only by Lammert's. Shown on Mezzanine Floor.

SUMMER FURNITURE  
The best obtainable line of Porch and Lawn Furniture.

A REMARKABLE SALE OF  
**DINING TABLES**

A manufacturer of Fine Dining Tables in need of ready cash has sold to us his entire surplus stock so low that we are selling them at prices ACTUALLY BELOW original factory cost. Here are a few of the many wonderful bargains that will be offered

**ALL THIS WEEK**

GENUINE MAHOGANY—\$68.00 value—with round top, 51 inches in diameter, extends 10 feet, solid center pillar—We will sell for.....\$40.00  
QUARTERED POLISHED OAK—\$32.00 value—52-inch round top, 10-foot length—We will sell for.....\$30.00  
GENUINE MAHOGANY—\$50.00 value—54-inch round top, 10-foot length—We will sell for.....\$29.00  
EARLY ENGLISH OAK—\$70.00 value—60-inch round top, 12-foot length—We will sell for.....\$45.00 (Early English is the most beautiful finish on oak yet produced.)  
GENUINE MAHOGANY—\$38.00 value—48-inch square top, bevel edge, octagon-shaped clustered legs, 10-foot, unique pattern—We will sell for.....\$37.00  
EARLY ENGLISH OAK—\$41.00 value—56-inch round top, massive pedestal base, 10-foot, beautiful pattern—We will sell for.....\$39.00  
POLISHED GOLDEN OAK—\$25.00 value—Oral top, 54x72 inches, 8-foot length—We will sell for.....\$15.75  
The same table in genuine mahogany we will sell for.....\$20.00

YOU CAN BUY BETTER GOODS AT  
**LAMMERT'S**  
FOR LESS MONEY

SPECIAL SALE OF  
**BRASS BEDS**

ADAMS & WESTLAKE MAKE—Elaborately and beautifully constructed—\$100.00 value—We will sell for.....\$70.00  
ADAMS & WESTLAKE MAKE—Cast brass ornamentation—\$20.00 value—We will sell for.....\$14.00  
ADAMS & WESTLAKE MAKE—Cathedral knobs—\$30.00 value—hand-some design—We will sell for.....\$22.00  
CONTINENTAL POST DESIGN—\$20.00 value—We will sell for.....\$16.00  
BY ACTUAL COUNT WE HAVE 60 different patterns of Brass Beds, ranging in price from \$16.00 to \$107.00

**BURMONT Library Furniture**

Wholly new and distinctly elegant designs—especially patterned by a master designer from composite ideas suggested by the foreign exhibits at the World's Fair—handmade and hand-finished under personal supervision from the highest grade of solid mahogany. Loose cushions of blue, rose and light green English leather, filled with finest feathers and hair. Superb occasions sold only in St. Louis by Lammert's—shown on the Mezzanine floor.

WEDDING PRESENTS  
Nothing makes a more appropriate or more acceptable Wedding Present or Anniversary Gift than a handsome piece of furniture.

LARGEST AND BEST FURNITURE STORE IN AMERICA  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
**LAMMERT FURNITURE CO.**  
FOURTH & ST. CHARLES STS.

arranged the whole plan of campaign and retarded for months the end of the war.

"Depot" Smith held a position as railroad operator here for awhile after the war, but the work grew tame to him and he soon abandoned it.

LODGE MEN PALLBEARERS.  
Funeral of William Cronley Took Place Last Wednesday.

The funeral of William Cronley, who for seventeen years was employed by the Iron Mountain Railroad, took place last Wednesday from the Church of the Annunciation at Sixth and La Salle streets.

He died at his home, No. 1119 South Sixth street.

Members of the Standard Lodge, A. O. U. W., of which he was a member, acted as pallbearers. Mr. Cronley was a brother of the late James Cronley and of Michael Cronley, both employees of the Missouri Pacific. He is survived by his wife and five children.

His former employers, Standard Lodge and many friends sent floral offerings.

Congressman Lloyd Gives Statistics.  
REPUBLICAN SPECIAL.  
Macon, Mo., May 20.—While here attending the late meeting this week Congressman Lloyd gave the following statistics on rural mail service in the First District:

No. of routes, 194, distributed as follows:

Mason 35, Shelby 21, Lewis 23, Schuyler 25, Knox 12, Putnam 15, Clark 15, Adair 14, Scotland 12, Marion 12.

"This service gives employment to 194 carriers at an average salary of \$12 per year, an aggregate of \$2,328.

"There are 1,564 mail boxes in the district, or an average of eighty to the route.

"It costs the Government \$2.51 to supply each farmer's family that has a box with its present mail facilities for one year.

"To estimate it another way, it costs the Government \$20 per year for each mile of rural service. It costs \$20.23 per mile for rural route service and \$20.96 per mile for railway service.

"Its cost by comparison may be shown in a different way. Every mile traveled by a star-route carrier costs Uncle Sam 65 cents, by a rural carrier 4 1/2 cents and railway 11 1/2."

CARNEGIE GIFT ANNOUNCED.  
Wellesley College Receives Continuing Donation.

Wellesley, Mass., May 20.—President Caroline Hazard of Wellesley College, at chapel to-day, confirmed an unofficial report that Andrew Carnegie has given the college \$125,000 to be used in the erection of a library.

The gift is conditional on the college raising a like sum. Already \$100,000 has been subscribed, and it is expected that the remainder will soon be offered by students and graduates.

The Simmons Company—The Recollection of Quality remains long after the price is forgotten.—The Simmons Company

## Gorham Sterling Silverware Fine Silk Umbrellas



STERLING is an expressive English word. Aside from its common meaning it stands for the standard of fineness set up by the British government for its coinage. All Gorham solid silverware is of the Sterling English standard, 925-1,000 fine, which means that out of every 1,000 parts of metal used, 925 parts are pure silver—the U. S. silver dollar is only 900 parts pure silver.

After viewing our display a lady said yesterday: "I believe it's even more beautiful than the Gorham Exhibit at the World's Fair." Come and see our collection of Gorham silver—a notable display—offering the widest range of choice goods at the most favorable prices consistent with the Gorham standard of quality.



Having the advantage of constant touch with the Gorham factory, where patterns of greatest artistic beauty are designed and made, we are enabled to offer you the very newest and best goods on the market. Our display embraces every article of table service for which silver is used, articles for lady's toilet table, as well as match boxes, tie clasps and other things for gentlemen's use. You are cordially invited to see this collection at your earliest convenience.



(Umbrella Department, First Floor.)  
We undoubtedly have the largest assortment of good umbrellas to be found in this city. By good we mean—well made, strong, serviceable and satisfactory. We carry only two grades of covers—the best union taftets and pure taftets silk—both with woven selvage, which prevents covers from tearing or splitting. We buy the handles separately—an important economy for you. Handles in natural wood, pearl, ivory, staghorn, gun metal, silver and the celebrated partridge sticks. Our umbrellas are priced according to the elaborateness of the handle—all have the celebrated Paragon steel frame and are guaranteed to give satisfaction. Prices start at.....\$2.75

Manufacturers' Exhibits and Demonstrations  
Something of Interest on Every Floor

Demonstration of Cut Glass making (third floor). Demonstration of Nickel-plating, Wood Turning and "Polishing" (second floor). Star Safety Razor Grooming Contest, Cutlery Grinding and Sharpening, and Art Teachers' Competitive Exhibit of Decorated China (first floor). Sample cans of Chl-Namel being given away free this week, also many special demonstrations and exhibits of tools and hardware by the world's best makers. (Hardware Department, Basement.)

Iced Tea Served Free in Our India Tea Room

—A quiet and artistic nook on the second floor (Housefurnishing Dept.) as attractive and refreshing to the eye as quaint surroundings can make it. Here we serve to each visitor—hot or iced India tea, free of charge. You are invited.

We believe the weather to-day will be fair and mild.  
NOTE—This is the only statement in our advertisement we do not guarantee to be correct.

Best Values in Trunks, Bags and Suit Cases.

(Leather Goods Department—First Floor.)

Settle the question of where to go by coming to this store, where the best trunks, bags and grips for the money are to be had. This list may tell you just what you want.

For \$10.00—A 26-inch, fiber-bound, steel-trimmed trunk, cloth lined throughout, 2 straps, large bolts, brass lock, extra skirt tray—\$13.00 value for.....\$10.00

For \$5.00—A 24-inch cowhide Suit Case, stitched corners and ends, straps inside and out, linen lined, fully worth \$7.00—our price.....\$5.00

For European Tourists we have: Steamer Trunks, \$5.50 to \$17.50. Wicker and Japanese Suit Cases, \$1.25 to \$6.00. "Carry Alls," \$2.75 to \$6.00.

Wardrobe Trunks, 15 different styles, all the best makes, prices range from \$20.00, \$30.00, \$40.00 to \$67.50. Come and see them demonstrated this week.



Automobile Supplies

(Automobile Supply Dept.—First Floor.)

Automobile owners may depend upon obtaining here the very best goods at very lowest prices. To be able to get the articles you want just when you want them means a saving of time, trouble and money, and we trust to receive your patronage

Bulb Lamps, per pair.....\$27.50 to \$37.50  
Solar Lights, per pair.....\$9.00 and up

"Neverout" Side Oil Lamps.  
Medium size, full polished brass; regular price, per pair, \$16.50; price now \$12.50

If You Haven't Received "Who's Who," Send for It.

Horns.....\$1.50 to \$18.00  
Goggles.....75c to \$5.00  
Gloves.....\$2.50 to \$5.00

Also Hats, Caps, Coats, Spark Plugs, Batteries, Generators and Tools of all kinds.

The Simmons Company

Broadway and St. Charles Street